

included in the baseline group were selected based on state and local roadway priorities, funding levels and need.

3.2.2 Mass Transit Alternative

The Mass Transit Alternative combined existing and planned mass transit with the No-Action improvements. The Alternative evaluated the performance of mass transit as a stand-alone alternative in meeting the Purpose and Need.

Existing transit consisted of an updated inventory of existing facilities and services presented in the 1996 FEIS. Planned facilities and services included those of the transit network identified in the 2020 RTP plus facilities and services not included in the 2020 RTP but identified by Will County and IDOT Officials as planned and likely to be implemented by 2020. Exhibit 3-2 identifies facilities and services of the Mass Transit Alternative.

Mass Transit included Pace, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Metra services. Pace, the suburban bus operating agency, operates 14 routes within the Project Corridor. These routes primarily serve local travel both within and adjacent to the Project Corridor. Pace also provides regional transit service within the Project Corridor and operates an express bus route between Joliet and downtown Chicago. Additional express bus service is proposed for IL Route 53 from Joliet to the northern suburbs and along the alignment of the Transportation System Improvement, should it be developed. Pace has no existing plans for additional routes in the corridor. However, bus is a flexible and adaptable transit service and Pace considers adding bus routes as population densities warrant ([Metra/Pace, 1992](#)). Exhibit 3-2 identifies potential Pace service areas anticipated to meet Pace density criteria by 2020 ([CATS, 1998](#)). However, this alternate is roadway dependent and constrained by the capacity limitations of the existing roadway system within the Project Corridor.

CTA is the operating authority for rail and bus service within the Chicago area. CTA's existing operating authority does not include areas outside the City of Chicago and Cook County. Therefore, CTA neither provides nor plans any rail service

